## REMARKS

The above amendment and these remarks are responsive to the Office Action of Examiner Kyung H. Shin of 13 Jan 2005.

Claims 1-10, 13, and 15 are in the case, none as yet allowed.

### *35 U.S.C. 103*

Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Salas et al (Salas, U.S. Patent 6,233,600) in view of Maurille (U.S. Patent 6,484,196).

In Applicants' invention, an access control list for the place in collaboration space is used for management of security of rooms with that space.  That is, access to rooms within the place is limited to only those individuals listed in the access control list for the place.  Thus, Applicants' invention provides a restrictive control over who may become a member of the various rooms within a place (that is, to whom managers can give access to rooms within the place.) This list of people are in the place main or root room of the hierarchy of rooms.  A manager or author can only add to

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the access control list of a room or subroom individuals who
are listed in the access control list of the root room of
the hierarchy.  This structure is brought out in the
following references from the specification.


        "Referring again to Figure 6, eight QuickPlace

extensions 160 are enhancements made to the Domino web

server 132 in order to support a QuickPlace

application.  These extensions 160 are enabled only for

QuickPlace URLS; that is, they are enabled for URLs

that are targeted against a particular QuickPlace.

These extensions are: (1) shared design elements, (2)

database linkage, (3) commands, (4) publish and draft

model, (5) security and authentication, (6) forms and

fields, (7) decoration model), and (8) graphics

server." [Page 56, line 13 to page 57, line 1. Emphasis

added.]


        "(2) Database linkage enables the grouping of a

number of databases in a hierarchical way.  A place is

a collection of databases, and these need to be

represented in a parent child relationship.  Data notes

represent the hierarchy to the database.  There is a

data note in the parent database, and there is a data

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note in the child database. The use of data notes for
these QuickPlace extensions as a way of representing
their functionality has the benefit that there are many
ways of manipulating them, whether it's with Java or
forms or the Notes designer. [Specification, page 57,
lines 12-21.]


" (5) The security and authentication QuickPlace
extension is consistent with the QuickPlace model,
which provides three levels of security or roles:
reader, author, and manager. There exists a member
directory for each place. What this means is that each
place has its own set of members that visit it. The
Domino server is modified to perform local
authentication against that directory, making places
very portable, self-contained. And they don't collide
with other members in other places. A user, having
control of his own place member directory, set his own
security for access to that directory. [Page 59, line
15 to page 60, line 1. Emphasis added.]


"...a collaborative environment to be set up
without administrative support, that is by members of
the team itself, using a familiar and easy to use

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browser user interface.  Members of the team, acting with manager or author authority, and using such a browser interface without involving administrative or application development support, need to be able to set up a folder or room for each project element..." [Specification, page 5, lines 7-15.  Emphasis added.]

"A room is created from a default room type template, PageLibrary.ntf, which provides indexing infrastructure for maintaining the pages in a room, and also security and authentication features so that access to a room can be limited to a subset of team members."  [Specification, page 55, line 16 ff. Emphasis added.]

Nowhere does Salas teach that membership in an access control list control on a specific subroom in collaboration space is limited to members included in the access control list for the collaboration space.  Thus, the reference to Col. 13, lines 31-34 of Salas states:

"...each object may be provided with a field or fields which identify users that may open, view, and edit the object."

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"Users" is not limited, apparently, to "members", as the latter may be identified for the place as distinguished from objects within the place.

Applicants invention provides a double linked list for linking rooms together in collaboration space, with <u>access control list control on rooms and access control list control on forward pointers</u>, or child pointers, to child rooms. Applicants have amended all claims to recite this specific structure.

This structure is illustrated in Figures 10 and 11 of applicants' specification, which are described as follows:

Referring to Figure 10, QuickPlace rooms 201-204 and 210 are connected by forward and backward pointers 205-209 and 211, and these enable the security of each room to be independently managed. <u>Each room has its own security; that is, the identity of each user allowed to enter the room and that users security level</u>: the three levels being reader, author, manager. This is held in an access control list which is a part of each room. While an individual, say Steve, has

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reader access (R) to the library 204, he can have author (A) access to a subroom 211. This enables a subroom 211 to have increased/ maintained, or decreased access authority for a particular individual with respect to its parent room 204. Only individuals with access to a parent 204 can access a subroom 210, but that subroom 210 can have changed access for the subroom 210 for these individuals. Previously, security could not be increased in subrooms 210 with respect to a parent room 204.

A database access control list (ACL) specifies who can or cannot access the database. For users who can access a database, access levels and roles determine the specific actions they can perform -- for example, creating or deleting documents. Document access fields (Readers and Authors fields), in conjunction with the database ACL, control who can read or modify specific documents. Thus, to limit access to specific documents created from a form, a readers field is included. A readers field explicitly lists the users who can read documents created from the form. If a form has an access list, names from the readers field are added to the form access list. Otherwise, the readers field

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controls access to documents created from the form. Entries in a readers field cannot give a user more access than what is specified in the database access control list (ACL); they can only further restrict access. An authors field works in conjunction with author access in the database ACL. Listing users in an authors field expands access rights by allowing listed users to edit documents they create. Entries in an authors field cannot override the database access control list; they can only refine it. Authors fields affect only users who have author access to the database.

Referring to Figure 11, forward pointers 205, 209 are secure. Security, in this context provides that forward pointer 205 to project A 203 carries the same security as that of project A 203, and anyone viewing main room 201 who is not entitled to access project A 203 will not see room 203 listed in parent room. QuickPlace does not show a user things or objects to which the user does not have access. In past, such objects were shown, but were greyed out or otherwise managed so that user access was inhibited. Forward pointers, therefore, include room name field 212,

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address to database name field 213, and readers field
214, which includes a table of user identifiers 215 for
each user permitted to access the room, with
corresponding access authority 216 for each such user,
which may be manager, author, or reader. [Applicants'
specification, pages 48-50.]

Salas does not teach this structure of a double linked
list for linking rooms together in a place with ACL security
on rooms and ACL security on forward pointers in the double
linked list.

The Examiner refers to Salas col. 3, lines 49-51 and
col. 13, lines 32-34 as teaching a "readers field for
providing access control list control on said forward
pointer." [Office Action, page 5.] Applicants traverse.
This is what Salas teaches:

"The server database 20 stores various tables which
contain information about eRooms, members, access
controls, and other data objects." [Salas, Col. 3,
lines 49-51.]

"For example, each object may be provided with a field

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or fields which identify users that may open, view, and edit the object." [Salas, Col 13, lines 32-34.]

Applicants assert that there is no teaching here of an access control list, or readers field, on a specific forward pointer from a parent room to a child room, which ACL or readers field is distinct from the ACL for the parent room. Applicants structure of access control elements provides a readers field as part of the pointer which is distinct from the ACL on either the parent or the child room, and is an ACL control on the pointer itself.

Neither Salas nor Maurille disclose or teach such a structure.

The Examiner refers to Salas, column 6, lines 39-55 for a teaching of forward and reverse pointers for enabling security of each room to be independently managed. Applicants respectfully traverse this characterization of Salas.

Salas refers to a hyperlink at column 6, line 43. A hyperlink is a type of pointer. That is, a hyperlink is a portion of text on a web page that is linked to another web

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page, either on the same site or in another Web site.  A

hyperlink, as described by Salas, is how to get into a room,

but is not a forward pointer in a double linked list

structure with ACL security on the forward pointers in

addition to ACL security on the child room.  The Examiner

refers to Maurille as teaching forward pointers identifying

a child room, but is silent as to the existence of an ACL

control on that pointer [Maurille, Col. 6, lines 44-57,

Office Action, page 5].

Consequently, the combination of Salas and Maurille

does not teach, applicants argue, ACL control specific to

forward pointers in the hierarchical structure of rooms in

collaboration space.

That Salas does not teach a double linked list with ACL

security on forward pointers in addition to ACL security on

the rooms is apparent from examination of Salas Figure 1,

which does not show forward and reverse pointers between

rooms.  In Salas, there is no teaching of forward and

reverse pointers linking rooms with ACL security on those

forward pointers, as distinguished from and in addition to

security on the rooms.  While Maurille may disclose forward

and reverse pointers, neither Maurille or Salas teach ACL

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security on the forward pointers.

Applicants' claims variously call for forward and reverse pointers between parent and children, with access control (readers/authors lists) included in the structure of the forward pointers, and are further limited to the specifics of access control as discussed above.

Maurille is cited by the Examiner as teaching databases and pointers linking them, and Applicants agree that such is taught. However, applicants are not claiming that they invented a hierarchy and pointers. Applicants invented a hierarchy or rooms to create a collaboration space with specific protocol of access control lists, including ACL lists specifically part of forward pointers used for management of security of rooms within that space. Maurille does not teach that protocol.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants urge that the above amendments be entered and the case passed to issue with claims 1-10, 13, and 15.

The Application is believed to be in condition for

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allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P. Sections 707.02(j) and 707.03 in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the Application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Sincerely,

J. Estrada, et al.

By

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